

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, 13-14 and 16-20 stand rejected. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 9, 12 and 15 are allowed. By this Amendment, applicant has canceled claims 1 and 18-20 without prejudice, and added claims 21-22. Accordingly, claims 2-17 and 21-22 are currently pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action sets forth at page 2, paragraph 2, "Claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, 13-14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aoki et al. (JP06-215862)." Although applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the Aoki reference, in order to expedite prosecution, applicant has canceled claim 1 thereby obviating its rejection. Further, applicant has amended claims 3, 5 and 8 to depend upon allowed claim 2. Accordingly, claims 3-8, 10-11, 13-14 and 16-17 all depend directly or indirectly on allowed claim 2. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that claims 3-8, 10-11, 13-14 and 16-17 be allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action sets forth at page 3, paragraph 4, "Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki...in view of Sollo (US 6,702,140)." Although applicant disagrees with the Office's characterization of the Aoki and Sollo references, in order to expedite prosecution, applicant has canceled claims 18-20 without prejudice.

Claims 21-22 are added. Basis for these claims may be found in applicant's specification, e.g., at page 3, lines 6-18, page 4, lines 11-17 and Figures 3-5 and 8. These claims do not introduce new matter.

Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references of record, disclose or suggest at least that the projections on the bottom wall of the container are frustoconical lugs before being riveted and that the lugs are deformed against the walls of the through perforations after being riveted. Applicant respectfully submits that at least these features distinguish the claims over the cited prior art. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that claims 21 and 22 be allowed.

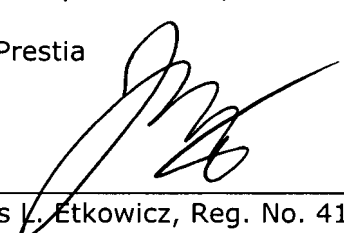
Appln. No.: 10/527,658
Amendment Dated July 30, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2007

TJA-113US

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, applicant submits that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia



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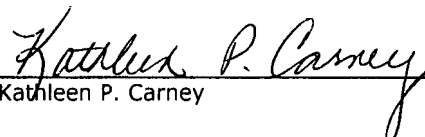
JLE/kpc

Dated: July 30, 2007

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 30, 2007.



Kathleen P. Carney